

Maryland Public Art Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2019
9:00-10:30 AM
Maryland State Arts Council Office

Attendees: Elaine Bachmann, Rosa Chang, Liesel Fenner, Liz Fitzsimmons, Ken Skzresz. By phone: Catherine Leggett, Rand Griffin, Molline Jackson, Leslie Kahn, Kathy O'Dell, Rodney Tissue.

Catherine Leggett called the meeting to order at 9:07 am, and noted a revision to the 4-18-19 Meeting Minutes. Leggett was not listed as attending and had attended. Liesel noted the correction. With the edit, the minutes were approved at 9:12 am.

Ken Skzresz shared MSAC Updates. The grants program revisions over the last year and a half included: Individual Artist Awards, Presenting and Touring, Grants for Organizations (GFO), slight revisions to Arts in Education, and Public Art. All the revisions occurred through the lens of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Two additional grant programs came out of the revision process. We have started the new Creativity Grant for grants \$1000-\$3500. We are also launching a new Professional Development Grant to support organizational leadership. In alignment with professional development, we are ready to launch our second annual Regional Institutes at seven locations around the state, as well as webinars starting in the spring. Next year we will also continue the MD Arts Summit that this year was attended by more than 400 people.

Catherine Leggett asked about the lens of inclusion and diversity in regards to race, gender, etc. Skzresz responded that it reflects the geographic area of service. The revision allowed grantees to report on whether their staff and Board look like the geographic area of service the organization reaches. Are people in the geographic service area involved in the organization's program planning? The revised program guidelines for these programs will be sent to the Commission.

Rand Griffin reported on the June 7-8, MD Arts Summit at UMBC. There were so many sessions it was hard to decide which one to attend and great to have so many choices. It was good exposure and visibility for MSAC and MPAI. We also took a tour of the public art site in the new science building. Kathy O'Dell added that the new building was phenomenal and was also impressed by the breadth and depth of the Summit presentations. The Summit brought together so many people and organizations.

Liesel Fenner provided an administrative update on programs. MSAC is in the approval process for hiring a public art consultant. The consultant will work closely with Fenner on all phases of project implementation from the artist selection process, through installation. Skrzysz noted that the consultancy is a three-year contract.

Several project RFQs are being written and will be disseminated.

Following up on the MPAI title change, the NASAA list of State Arts Agency public art programs handout was referenced. Fenner proposed a Committee be created to review program title options and revise the bylaws. The Committee recommendations will be presented back to the Commission for approval by the end of this year. Committee volunteers included: Elaine Bachmann, Catherine Leggett, Rand Griffin and Kathy O'Dell.

Fenner noted that we have one opening available on the Commission; as well, a new MSAC Councilor will be starting in the fall, who could serve in the role as representative from the Council. Both openings will be reviewed in the fall.

Project Updates: Fenner noted that the Easton Readiness Center artwork is almost complete. We are looking at having a separate dedication for the public artwork. She also emphasized the need for onsite installation oversight by MSAC during installation to fulfill project delivery.

The UMBC public artwork will start installation July 29, and MSAC will be working with the University's Communications department creating a time-lapse video. Fenner discussed a proposed separate artwork dedication event idea. Fitzsimmons was not supportive of separating the building dedication from the artwork dedication. O'Dell concurred citing the story from the Dean of Mathematics about the red skylight and terrazzo pattern alignment on the solstice and his enthusiasm for the building design features. She emphasized the artwork is truly part of the building. Fenner agreed and will discuss with UMBC dedicating the artwork during the building dedication event.

The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) public artwork has started construction on the building site and Fenner will be making a site visit later this summer.

Fenner referenced the two MPAI Project Lists: dated 4-18-19 and the new Eligible Projects list provided by DBM. She noted that several dates required revision - listed under the Design Period column. She will be setting up a meeting with DBM to discuss the dates as well as confirming the proposed public art budgets listed. Griffin noted that we need to know if a project is a joint-venture and the amounts for the State contribution vs. the remaining contribution so that we can seek additional contributions. Fitzsimmons emphasized that we would need to evaluate the

sales strategy for approaching a private sector partner to request additional funding. Skrzysz stated a standardized procedure would be needed in order to assess staff capacity. Fenner agreed to developing a proposed procedure for the October MPAC meeting.

Leggett asked for Additional Business items and Molline Jackson shared points from a conversation she had with the Prince George's Arts & Humanities Commission and M-NCPPC.

- **Eliminating Inefficiencies** as it relates to redundant administrative tasks and opportunities to collaborate effectively through shared technology (e.g. online application software and state-wide artist registry). We could use the same platforms making it easier to communicate state-wide.
- **More Educational Sessions** like the UMUC Symposium and the MD Arts Summit.
- **Ecosystem built around artists** How can we support artists taking the next/best step in their artistic careers? What partnership can we foster with private developers to help them understand the benefits and opportunities that public art provides specific.
- **Recognition, Increased Awareness, and/or Certificate of Merit** for developers (both public agencies and private developers) putting forth thoughtful and sustainable projects. Their projects could be leveraged with other state-wide initiatives and used to support and acknowledge local artists, as well as other projects throughout the State.

Leggett thanked Jackson for the ideas in particular noting the need for building the ecosystem for artists. It was noted the next meeting is October 17, 2019. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01.